



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

February 28, 2008

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Second District

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Third District

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Fifth District

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

New Speaker Elected

Today, Assembly Member Karen Bass was elected Speaker by a unanimous voice vote. The Assembly action follows a meeting of the Democratic Caucus last evening in which Bass emerged as the choice to succeed Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez. Assembly Speaker Nuñez originally stated, subsequent to the defeat of modified term limits earlier this month (Proposition 93), that the changeover in Assembly Speaker would take place at the end of the legislative session. However, no formal date has been set for the official transition.

Joint Hearing on the 2008 Presidential Primary Election

A Joint Hearing of the Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee, Senate Select Committee on Integrity of Elections, and the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee has been scheduled for Friday, March 7, 2008. The hearing will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the Ronald Reagan State Building in Los Angeles. The informational hearing will focus on "The Problems Faced by Voters at the 2008 Presidential Primary Election." Acting Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean Logan has been invited to participate in the hearing. In addition, former Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Conny McCormack has been invited to testify on the historical aspects of the cross-over ballot layout in Primary Elections. Our Sacramento

advocates indicate that the agenda is still being developed but the main areas for discussion will be the cross voting issue, causes of the problem, and steps that should be taken to avoid this problem in the future.

Assembly Health Committee Hearing on Access to Care in Los Angeles County

The Assembly Health Committee will hold a hearing in Los Angeles on Friday, May 2, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., to discuss access to care resulting from the closure of health facilities and emergency rooms in Los Angeles County. The location has not yet been determined.

Status of County-Sponsored Legislation

Our December 5, 2007 Sacramento Update outlined eight proposals for County-sponsorship which are consistent with Board action or prior sponsorship of similar legislation. At that time, we reported that our Sacramento advocates were attempting to identify authors prior to the February 22, 2008 deadline to introduce bills. Subsequently, your Board added a ninth item for County-sponsorship related to plastic carryout bags.

The status of the nine proposals for County-sponsorship is provided below. Other candidates for County sponsorship may emerge based on future actions by your Board, further discussions with departments, or events in Sacramento.

Hepatitis A Vaccinations for Food Services Workers. The Department of Public Health has indicated that passage of SB 144 (Runner), Chapter 23, Statutes of 2006, established the California Retail Food Code which provides protection of public health from food-borne illnesses through mandatory reporting to the local public health officer rather than vaccination of food service workers. The provisions of SB 144 became effective on July 1, 2007. As it would be premature to pursue new legislation before full implementation of this measure, we will not seek County-sponsored legislation this year.

Reinstatement of Retired Firefighters. SB 134 (Cedillo), Chapter 290, Statutes of 2007, grants authority to your Board to allow County sworn Sheriff's employees and firefighters hired prior to April 1, 1997 to work beyond the age of 60. SB 134 also allows County sworn Sheriff's employees to apply for reinstatement after retirement. However, the reinstatement option was not extended to firefighters. As such, we are pursuing County-sponsored legislation to allow firefighters to apply for reinstatement after retirement. Although the author is currently unknown, the reinstatement of retired firefighters is likely to be amended into AB 579.

Flood Control and Water Conservation Liability Protection. County-sponsored AB 1903 (Hernandez), as introduced on February 7, 2008, would provide liability protection for the Department of Public Works in their lined and unlined channels and adjacent spreading grounds during flood control and water conservation operations. This measure is currently in the Assembly Judiciary Committee and is scheduled for a hearing on March 11, 2008.

Funding of Local and Regional Watershed Projects. County-sponsored AB 564 (Brownley), as amended on December 13, 2007, would authorize, upon voter approval and/or consistent with the requirements of Proposition 218, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to implement storm water fees to fund clean water programs. This measure is set for hearing on March 5, 2008 in the Senate Local Government Committee.

Full CD4 AIDS Reporting. County-sponsored SB 1184 (Kuehl), as introduced on February 12, 2008, would require full CD4 AIDS test reporting, and will result in the reporting of additional HIV/AIDS cases which will be accepted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for funding purposes while California's name-based HIV reporting system is being fully implemented. This urgency measure is currently in the Senate Health Committee and is awaiting a hearing date.

Electronic Filing of Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700). County co-sponsored AB 2607 (Davis), as introduced on February 22, 2008, is a "spot bill" that would authorize a three-year pilot program in which filers of Statements of Economic Interest (Form 700) would be permitted, on a voluntary basis, to file Form 700 electronically using a safe and secure system. This measure is currently awaiting referral to a policy committee.

Plastic Carryout Bags. On January 22, 2008, your Board instructed the Chief Executive Officer to include in the 2007-08 State Legislative Agenda sponsorship or pursuit of legislation to: 1) repeal the provision of AB 2449 which prohibits local governments from imposing a fee on plastic carryout bags at supermarkets and retail stores; 2) implement a Statewide fee on plastic carryout bags, with the provision that funds raised would be directed to local governments on a per-capita basis for litter prevention and source reduction efforts, or establish Statewide benchmarks to reduce the consumption of plastic carryout bags and increase at-store recycling of plastic bags; and 3) amend the provision of AB 2449 to also require an environmental awareness message to be imprinted on each plastic carryout bag describing the negative impacts littered plastic carryout bags have on the environment and wildlife and the need to use reusable bags.

County-sponsored AB 2829 (Davis), as introduced on February 22, 2008, expresses legislative intent to: 1) require the printing of a second environmental awareness statement on non-biodegradable plastic carryout bags; 2) remove the prohibition on local governments' authority to impose fees for use of plastic carryout bags; and 3) implement a statewide fee on plastic carryout bags, directing the revenues raised by that charge to local governments, on a per capita basis, to fund litter prevention programs and source reduction efforts. This measure is currently awaiting referral to a policy committee.

Emancipated Foster Youth. In 2007, AB 713 (Maze) was introduced which cited legislative intent to provide enhanced services and financial support to assist emancipated youth between the ages of 18 and 21. During 2007, our Sacramento advocates worked with the author's office, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), the John Burton Foundation, legislative staff and child welfare advocates to develop specific proposals which were to be amendments to AB 713 or introduced in alternative legislation also authored by Assembly Member Maze in early 2008.

However, in light of the Governor's proposed budget for FY 2008-09 which would significantly reduce funding for basic Child Welfare Services, the author, DCFS, CWDA, and other Sacramento advocates determined that it would not be prudent to pursue AB 713 or alternative legislation in 2008.

Promote Adoptions for Children in Foster Family Agencies. In consultation with County Counsel, DCFS concluded that further review is needed to determine the impact of this proposal and to obtain input from community advocates and stakeholders. Therefore, we will not seek County-sponsored legislation in 2008 to promote adoptions by allowing Foster Family Agency families who seek to adopt children in their care to receive a special Adoption Assistance Payment.

Status of County Advocacy Legislation

County-supported AB 1491 (Jones), as amended on February 21, 2008, which would extend the sunset date for the transfer of courthouses to the State, was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 by a vote of 4 to 0. The measure has been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee where the author is expected to seek an early hearing as the bill is an urgency measure.

We will continue to keep you advised.

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